

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 25-30, 33-39, 41-43 and 46-48 are pending. By this Response, claims 18-24, 31-32 and 44-45 are cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to applicant's representative during the interview conducted on February 22, 2005. During the interview the Examiner maintained that the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 101 is proper. Applicants disagreed with the Examiner. However, in order to advance prosecution, applicants have canceled the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicants reserve the right to present the canceled claims in a continuation or divisional application.

Applicants note that claims 1-17, 25-30, 33-39, 41-43 and 46-48 have been allowed. By the cancellation of claims 18-24, 31-32 and 44-45, the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

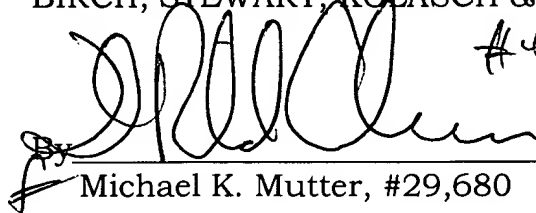
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/812,885

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)